

TRIBUTE TO COY DEAN FORTSON

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Coy Dean Fortson who regretfully passed away recently. A life-long resident of Berrien County, Michigan, Coy was a dedicated family man whose extensive charity and dedication to local individuals and the community as a whole made southwest Michigan an even greater place to live and grow.

Coy valiantly served his country in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, and was a member of the Air Force Reserves for more than 30 years. Over his inspiring career at the Whirlpool Corporation, Coy helped to improve the lives of countless individuals who had the fortune of crossing his path. There is no question that Coy's passion for the betterment of our corner of Michigan will be greatly missed. He undoubtedly touched many lives as a member of Berrien County's FEMA Emergency Planning and Response Team. Coy also served on the Board of Directors for the local public library, where he spent many hours volunteering in order to expand the availability of educational resources for our extended community.

On behalf of the Sixth District of Michigan, our prayers and sincere regards go out to Coy's family and friends—he will certainly be deeply missed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO GREATER
TULSA AREA HISPANIC AFFAIRS
COMMISSION

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my congratulations to the Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic Affairs Commission in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for 25 years of service to the Hispanic community.

Then Mayor, James M. Inhofe, and Jack and Aurora Ramirez Helton formed the Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic Affairs Commission in 1979. A city ordinance and county resolution were enacted so that the Commission would continue in the future. In 1979 only a few cities in the United States had such a commission. The Commission's current work includes annual youth exchanges and adult exchanges, which are an established part of their partnership with Tulsa's Eisenhower International School. Eisenhower has the United States' only elementary school international exchange program in its relationship with San Luis Potosi's Instituto Cervantes.

May the commission have many more years of such valuable community service and prosperity.

HONORING TAIWAN PRESIDENT
CHEN SHUI-BIAN**HON. JOHN BOOZMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in honoring Taiwan President, Chen Shui-bian, and his people on the occasion of their October 10 National Day.

In the past two decades, Taiwan has truly emerged as a model Asian country. Secretary Powell said it well when he remarked, "Taiwan has become a resilient economy, a vibrant democracy and a generous contributor to the international community." In fact, Taiwan's economy is the 16th largest in the world. One third the size of Virginia, Taiwan produces a Gross National Product that is four-fifths the size of Australia's.

In addition, Taiwan's democracy gives its people a full range of political and civil rights, including freedom of speech and assembly. Taiwan also contributes to international causes. For example, in the last 10 years, Taiwan has given \$100 million dollars to 78 countries and Taiwan is now providing a significant amount of humanitarian assistance to refugees in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has become a close friend of the United States. Our relationship with Taiwan is multifaceted and wide-ranging. While we do not have formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan, our mutual relationship has been able to flourish over many years. The United States and Taiwan have many common interests and shared values. Taiwan has been supportive of the United States, including our efforts in the war against global terror. In turn, the United States should help Taiwan return to the World Health Organization and the United Nations and commit ourselves to the Taiwan Relations Act, thus assuring Taiwan's security.

It is clear to us that the 23 million people of Taiwan prefer the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. They prefer peace, stability and continued prosperity instead of dramatic changes that might undermine or endanger what they have achieved. To reflect the will of the people, in his May 20 inaugural address to the Taiwanese people, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian was very conciliatory toward China and offered to open talks with China without pre-conditions. In fact, he did not rule out any form of relationship with China as long as it would be acceptable to the people of Taiwan. During this difficult time, the United States should support Taiwan's security, dignity and sovereignty. We should listen to the 23 million people of Taiwan and heed their desire for continued peace and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I wish to congratulate Taiwan ambassador, Dr. David Lee, and the people of Taiwan on their National Day and wish them every success in their year-end legislative elections.

RECOGNIZING GARY, INDIANA
MEMBERS OF NAACP**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize and commend the members of the Gary, Indiana branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). On Friday, October 15, 2004, the Gary NAACP will hold its 44th Annual Mary White Ovington Awards Banquet at St. Timothy Community Church's Fellowship Hall in Gary, Indiana.

This annual event is a major fundraiser for the Gary branch of the NAACP. The funds generated through this activity, and others like it, go directly to the organization's needed programs and advocacy efforts. In addition, the dinner serves to update and keep the community aware of the activities, accomplishments, and accolades of the local and national chapters of the NAACP on an annual basis.

The featured speaker at this gala event will be Dr. Mary Steele. Dr. Steele is the Superintendent of the Gary Community School Corporation. This is a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education, the 75th Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the 39th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. This year's theme is "The Race Is On. The Time Is Now." The NAACP Gary Branch will honor members of the community that have contributed to the cause of civil rights, labor and industry, the community, and its organization.

On February 12, 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded by a multiracial group of activists, and their goal among many was to secure the political, economic, and social rights of all African Americans. For more than 95 years, the NAACP built and grew on the collective courage of thousands of people. As the Nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, the NAACP has worked successfully with allies of all races who believe in and stand for the principles on which the organization was founded. Throughout its history, some of America's greatest minds have worked to effect change.

The Gary NAACP was organized by a group of residents that felt there was a need for an organization that would monitor and defend the rights of African Americans in Northwest Indiana. The national organization, of which the Gary branch is a member, focuses on providing better and more positive ways of addressing the important issues facing minorities in social and job-related settings. Like the national organization, the Gary branch of the NAACP serves its community by combating injustice, discrimination, and unfair treatment in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the members of the Gary NAACP for the efforts, activities, and leadership that these outstanding men and women have championed to improve the quality of life for all residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.